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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

GEORGE KOPPICH, et al.

Application No.: 09/357,585

Filed: July 20, 1999

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Group Art Unit: 2722

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Technology Center 2600

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of each document so listed is enclosed.

EP 0851367
GB 2332543
JP 11143670
JP 11353145
JP 11327863
JP 11203075

These documents were cited during prosecution of a Singapore patent application corresponding to the above U.S. application. Copies of a Written Opinion and Search and Examination Report issued by the Austrian Patent Office are enclosed.

English language abstracts for each of the foregoing Japanese documents have been located and are enclosed for the Examiner's consideration. The concise

explanation of relevance for the Japanese documents is believed to be satisfied by both the Search and Examination Report and the English language abstracts. See MPEP § 609.

Inasmuch as this application has not yet received a first Office Action on the merits, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


Attorney for Applicants

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